



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALIEN SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 65 MONTHS

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 14, 2003, Mario Reynaldo Escobar-Urbina was sentenced to 65 months for alien smuggling and assault on a federal officer. The incident which led to the defendant's arrest occurred on August 7, 2002, when United States Border Patrol Agents responded to sensor activity near Arivaca, Arizona and encountered four vehicles. One of the vehicles was driven by Mario Reynaldo Escobar-Urbina. In attempting to flee, the defendant accelerated his vehicle. The Border Patrol had to take evasion action, which almost caused the vehicle to roll over. Border Patrol Agents discovered 13 aliens in the back of the pickup truck covered by plywood, with an additional 7 aliens in the front cab.

On September 4, 2002, Mario Reynaldo Escobar-Urbina was charged in a five count indictment including 2 counts of transporting aliens under 7 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(ii), 2 counts of bringing aliens into the United States under 8 U.S.C. 1324 (a)(2)(b)(iii), and one count of assaulting a federal officer using a dangerous and deadly weapon under 18 U.S.C. 111.

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The prosecution was handled by Fred Slaughter, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1502-TUC

RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-061

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